

Senate File 2227 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2227
BY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3083)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the publication of county resolutions.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 349.16, subsection 1, Code 2018, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. The proceedings of the board of supervisors, as furnished
4 by the county auditor, excluding from the publication of said
5 proceedings, its canvass of the various elections, as provided
6 by law; witness fees of witnesses before the grand jury and in
7 the district court in criminal cases.

8 Sec. 2. Section 349.18, subsection 3, Code 2018, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 3. a. The county auditor shall furnish a copy of the
11 proceedings to be published, within one week following the
12 adjournment of the board. The county auditor shall include
13 either a summary of all resolutions or the complete text of
14 resolutions adopted by the board in the furnished copy of the
15 proceedings. As used in this subsection, "summary" means a
16 narrative description of the resolution setting forth the main
17 points of the resolution in a manner calculated to inform
18 the public in a clear and understandable manner the meaning
19 of the resolution and to provide the public with sufficient
20 notice of the policy stated or action to be taken, as resolved
21 by the board in the resolution. The narrative description
22 shall include the title of the resolution, an accurate and
23 intelligible synopsis of the essential elements of the
24 resolution, a statement that the description is a summary, the
25 location and the normal business hours of the office where the
26 full text of the resolution may be inspected, and the effective
27 date of the resolution. Legal descriptions of property
28 set forth in a resolution shall be described in full. The
29 narrative description shall be written in a clear and coherent
30 manner and shall, to the extent possible, avoid the use of
31 technical or legal terms not generally familiar to the public.
32 When necessary to use technical or legal terms not generally
33 familiar to the public, the narrative description shall include
34 definitions of those terms.

35 b. In addition to the requirements in paragraph "a", if a

1 county operates an internet site, the county auditor shall post
2 the full text of all resolutions adopted by the board on the
3 internet site. Any posted summary or text of a full resolution
4 shall include links directing readers to information relevant
5 to the content of the resolution.

6 EXPLANATION

7 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
8 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

9 Current law requires that all proceedings of each regular,
10 adjourned, or special meeting of a county board of supervisors
11 be published immediately after the adjournment of the meeting
12 and that the county auditor, serving as clerk to the board,
13 furnish a copy of the proceedings to the board for publication
14 within one week following the adjournment of the board. This
15 bill requires that the county auditor include either a summary
16 of all resolutions or the complete text of resolutions adopted
17 by the board, for the purposes of furnishing such proceedings
18 for publication. The bill also requires a county to post the
19 full text of adopted resolutions on the county's internet site
20 if the county operates one.